

In the Claims

Cancel claims 1 to 10 without prejudice and substitute therefor:

- 21.(new) A method of conveying wound laps comprising the steps of
- producing a series of wound laps in a winding station, each of said laps having a web wound onto a tube about a longitudinal axis of the tube;
- delivering each wound lap successively from said winding station onto a conveyor belt extending in a direction parallel to said axis;
- sequentially rotating each wound lap delivered to said conveyor belt 180° to reverse a winding off direction of the web on the tube thereof;
- thereafter spacing the wound laps delivered to said conveyor belt in equi-spaced relation along said conveyor belt; and
- conveying the wound laps on said conveyor belt in stepwise manner longitudinally of said axis to a series of combing machines.
- 22.(new) A method as set forth in claim 21 wherein each wound lap is moved transversely of said axis before and after said step of rotating said wound lap.
- 23.(new) A method as set forth in claim 21 wherein each said wound lap is lifted from said conveyor belt prior to said step of rotating said wound lap and deposited onto said conveyor belt after said step of rotation.
- 24.(new) An apparatus comprising

a conveyor belt for receiving a series of wound laps in equi-spaced relation for intermittent travel along a common longitudinal axis, each of said wound laps having a tube disposed in parallel to said common longitudinal axis;

a rotatable shaft disposed perpendicularly of said conveyor belt at one end of said conveyor belt; and

at least two receiving means mounted on opposite sides of said shaft, each said receiving means being positioned to engage within said tube of a wound lap delivered to said conveyor belt and to rotate the engaged wound lap at least 90° onto said conveyor belt in response to rotation of said shaft.

- 25.(new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 further comprising means for driving said conveyor belt in stepwise manner.
- 26.(new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 further comprising a lifting device for raising and lowering said shaft relative to said conveyor belt.
- 27.(new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 wherein the distance between said shaft and a wound lap to be rotated is equal to one-half the spacing between two adjacent wound laps on said conveyor belt.
- 28.(new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 wherein said shaft rotates 180° to place a wound lap on said conveyor.
- 29.(new) An apparatus as set forth in claim 24 wherein each said receiving means has a non-slip surface to receive said tube of a wound lap thereon.

- 30.(new) The combination as set forth in claim 20 wherein said means rotates each wound lap 180° .
- 31.(new) The combination as set forth in claim 20 wherein said means includes a rotatable shaft disposed perpendicularly of said conveying belt at one end of said conveying belt; and at least two receiving means mounted on opposite sides of said shaft, each said receiving means being positioned to engage a wound lap delivered to said conveying belt and to rotate the engaged wound lap at least 180° onto said conveying belt in response to rotation of said shaft.
- 32.(new) The combination as set forth in claim 31 further comprising a lifting device for raising and lowering said shaft relative to said conveyor belt.